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# The PCI News



## Korea's Changing Roles in Southeast Asia: Expanding Influence and Relations



From March 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> in Seoul, South Korea, the Asia Foundation and Yonsei University Institute of East and West Studies, with

sponsorship from the Korea Foundation and the Pacific Century Institute, co-hosted a conference on Korea's relations with Southeast Asia. Keynote speakers included, H.E. Surin Pitsuwan (Secretary General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN]), David Steinberg (Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies, Georgetown University) and Chung-In Moon (Professor of Political Science, Yonsei University).

This conference was the climax of a nine-month research project to examine comprehensively the expanding range of interests and relationships, public and private, between Korea and the countries of Southeast Asia and their institutional framework, ASEAN. The timing of the conference was exceptionally fortuitous since the Korean government announced recently that the ASEAN Korean Centre will be established in Seoul later this year to promote closer cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the Secretariat and member states of ASEAN.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan gave an impassioned talk that laid out his vision for a stronger and more relevant ASEAN and a more integrated East Asian Community built on the basis of ASEAN plus its three dialogue partners, Korea, Japan and China. He challenged Korea to play a major role in realizing this vision by building on its economic and cultural relations to take its relations with Southeast Asia to a higher level. In particular, he proposed that Korea take the lead in strengthening the social and cultural ties in East Asia, which he views as the third pillar of a solid regional relationship along with peace and security as well as economy and human security.

This conference, coming early in the Administration of the new South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, was a timely discussion of the progress achieved as well as the serious

challenges remaining in Korea's multi-faceted relations with its near neighbors in Southeast Asia. The presenters, as well as the audience, expressed the view that the conference had achieved its objectives and laid the basis for a continuing dialogue on the issues discussed.

## PCI Collaborates with Syracuse University

### Syracuse University / Kim Chaek University of Technology Program

Syracuse University (SU), with the support of The Korea Society, in 2002 began an extended academic collaboration with Kim Chaek University of Technology (KUT). KUT is one of several comprehensive universities in the North. The collaboration with KUT led to the design and implementation of North Korea's first digital library which is standards-based and conforms largely to international protocols for information storage and retrieval.



This ongoing collaboration has built up a significant reservoir of interpersonal and institutional trust between SU, TKS, and the DPRK. The KUT Chancellor and Vice Chancellor have visited Syracuse and senior officials of both SU and TKS have visited the KUT campus. This has led to SU academic support for the DPRK's first ever entries into the International Computer Programming Contest (the international Olympics for teams of undergraduate programmers). This year, their second in the competition, the Kim Chaek University team's performance in the regional competition in Beijing earned them an invitation to the world finals this April in Banff, Canada. Of the 6,700 teams participating in the various regional competitions, only 100 made it to the finals. Recently, SU and TKS have received grants from the Pacific Century Institute and other institutions permitting six DPRK young academics to spend up to a semester at Syracuse University as a part of a new Junior Faculty Leadership Program.

### Syracuse University Contemporary Korea Peninsula Research and Engagement Center

Syracuse University (SU), with the support of the Pacific

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**Syracuse**

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Century Institute, is launching the Contemporary Korea Peninsula Research and Engagement Center (CKPREC), to share a vision and respect for contemporary Korea, including its global leadership in informatization and dissemination of Korean Wave culture and traditions.

CKPREC, unlike more traditional Korea Studies approaches, which often function as enclaves of scholars focused primarily on Korean-American audiences, plans to permeate SU's curricula and class experiences in all eleven SU Schools and Colleges by developing and disseminating "teaching cases" on Korea's achievements and best practices. From Architecture to Engineering and IT to Visual and Performing Arts, the achievements of Korea will be brought to SU students and, in the process, SU faculty. This "Korea-Across-The-Curriculum" approach focuses on contemporary Korea and showcases NE Asia from a Korean Perspective. The Center will share and apply Korean successes through cases, research, publications, conferences, and media outreach, resulting from CKPREC enabled scholarship and programming.

**Project Bridge Update**

*Project Bridge is an annual collaboration between the Korea Society and PCI. Participants are high school juniors and seniors from New York and Los Angeles. The primary goal is to*

*create relationships between Americans of diverse ethnic backgrounds and foster mutual understanding between different cultures. Activities during the year-long program include: monthly workshops on multicultural youth leadership issues and relations; seminars covering history, language and culture; field trips; community service; and, for those who successfully complete the program, a ten day educational study tour of Korea.*

*The following is a report from Grace Tark, the Project Bridge coordinator for the Los Angeles area. In it Grace reviews the successes and lessons of the previous year and plans and proposes changes for the future.*

**F**or Project Bridge (PB) this year and in keeping with the new standards created the previous year, the activities and assignments were set to challenge the students to push themselves out of their normal limitations and to really strive for their personal best. For example, individual evaluations were provided to the students following their

research papers, where each student was assigned to a different topic that was related to Korea. The help that the students received on their writing and presentation skills over the course of their work on the research topics taught them to truly take pride in their work product and to not take shortcuts. During a conversation with Rebecca Brabant (PB coordinator in New York), we discussed how the program allows students the rare opportunity to strengthen their writing skills so that they can fix any bad habits and properly prepare them for the writing standards of college and the professional world.

One of the great things that we did this year was to hold a self-evaluation session with the students after they received critiques from the group leaders regarding their research assignments. This really afforded the students the opportunity to take stock and determine what their personal goals were for the program. It helped them to acknowledge their individual strengths and weaknesses and to figure out a plan to reach their goals.

Next year, it is proposed that a writing assignment be given at the start of the program's curriculum to allow the group leaders to assess each Youth Ambassador's writing abilities outside of what was submitted for their applications. This way, the self-evaluation can be held prior to the retreat, which would allow the students to set goals for themselves for their research papers. Then an additional self-evaluation session can be held a month prior to the study tour to determine whether those goals have been met and to set new ones for the remainder of the year.

As for the study tour, I believe that the success of the trip largely had to do with the weekly phone conferences held between Rebecca and myself. This allowed us to keep each other posted on the assignments and activities that were planned on either side and to overlap as much of the lessons or activities as possible. In addition, reports following each LA meeting were emailed over to Rebecca so that LA's updates could also be included in the newsletter by The Korea Society.

In our efforts to improve the program for the future, we will create a standardized Project Bridge handbook, and other volunteers will work to compile an adequate database of former Youth Ambassadors. The overall goal is to formalize the program so that we can execute the program more efficiently and continue to be an incomparable intercultural outreach and leadership program.



*Project Bridge 2007-2008 graduation*



## East-West Center's Bangkok Media Conference: Changing Dynamics in the Asia Pacific – Power Politics, Economic Might, Media Challenges



With support from the Pacific Century Institute, the East-West Center held a conference in Bangkok, Thailand from January 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. The conference drew close to 180 participants from 21 nations, and was described as a professional networking conference for American, Asian and Pacific Island journalists to discuss key issues in the region and common challenges facing media. Keynote speakers included Raymond Burghardt, Director, East-West Seminars, East-West Center, and a board member of PCI. The East-West Center is an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. For more information on this conference, please contact us.

## 2008 Building Bridges Program with Ambassador Yim



On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Pacific Century Institute, with the Korea Foundation, the RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy and Syracuse University / Kim Chaek University of Technology Program, hosted a program with Ambassador Sung-Joon Yim. Amb. Yim was inaugurated as the 8<sup>th</sup> President of the Korea Foundation on February 27, 2007, following a diplomatic career of 33 years. Prior to taking office at the Korean Foundation, Amb. Yim served as Korea's Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary to Canada since 2004. The Korea Foundation was established in 1991 to promote a better understanding of Korea in the international community and to foster global friendship by conducting various exchange activities between the Republic of Korea and foreign countries around the world.

## Upcoming Events:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Northeast Asia Journalists Dialogue

Sixteen senior journalists from the United States, Japan, China and South Korea were invited to participate in panels

on important regional issues. The three-day program is scheduled for Sept. 3-5, and is sponsored by the East-West Center, Korea Press Foundation, the Pacific Century Institute and the Center for Global Partnership. Proposed topics of discussion include: the Myanmar/Burma Cyclone Experience and Regional Disaster Response, New Leaders and Northeast Asian Diplomacy, the 2008 Olympics and Post-Olympic China, Sino-Japanese Relations – On the Mend?, North Korea and the Six-Party Talks, the U.S. Presidential Election. Results from this event will be highlighted in the next issue of the PCI News.

## Globalization: Impact on Vietnam – PCI Follow-up Conference with University of Hanoi

The Pacific Century Institute (PCI) has reached agreement with (now) Rector Phung Xuan Nha, National Economics College, University of Hanoi, to hold a two-day seminar in the Fall of 2008 on "Globalization: Impact on Vietnam." This seminar follows up on our highly successful "Seminar on Entrepreneurship," held in Hanoi in October 2006. Since Vietnam has taken major strides toward economic liberalization in concluding its Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States and has joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), we plan to focus on issues such as the importance of concurrent progress on education, civil governance, the legal system, and the financial system, as well as the economic facets of globalization. We will look at these issues generically as well as their pertinence to Vietnam.



Princeton University's Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) has agreed to host the seminar on Princeton's campus. The Maureen and Michael Mansfield Foundation in Washington, DC has agreed to co-sponsor the seminar and will serve as the organizer of the seminar. The US-ASEAN Trade Council's Vice President Virginia Foote also enthusiastically supports the seminar and contributing to substantive aspects of the seminar.

## Ambassador Kathleen Stephens Visits

Newly confirmed U.S. envoy to the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, will be visiting the Southern California area in September. Her visit will include an event at the RAND Corporation and a forum at the Korean Education Center in Los Angeles.

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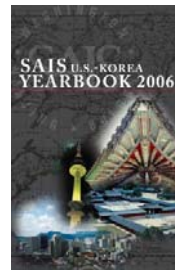


**Upcoming**

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Ambassador Kathleen Stephens began her Foreign Service career in 1978 and served twice in the country, most recently as principal officer at the consulate in Busan in 1987-1989, and as internal political unit chief from 1984-1987 in Seoul. Amb. Stephens has been serving as principal deputy assistant secretary of State in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs since 2005, focusing on the management of U.S. relations with Japan and Korea. From 2003 to 2005, she was deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, addressing Kosovo's future status, the NATO-led mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the integration of the western Balkans in

Euro-Atlantic institutions. She also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea from 1975-1977.

**New Publication Available**

"SAIS Yearbook 2006" is a new publication from Johns Hopkins University made possible with support from the Pacific Century Institute. If you are interest in obtaining a copy, please contact us.

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